Bene. Come,will you go with me?

Claudio Whither?

Bene. Euen to the next willow,about your owne buſines, county: what faſhion will you weare the garland of ? about your necke, like an Vſurers chaine?or vnder your arme, like a Lieutenants ſcarffe? you muſt weare it one way,for the prince hath got your Hero.

Claudio I wiſh him ioy of her.

Bened. Why thats ſpoken like an honeſt Drouier, ſo they ſell bullockes: but did you thinke the Prince would haue ſerued you thus?

Claudio I pray you leaue me.

Benedicke Ho now you ſtrike like the blindman, twas the boy that ſtole your meate,and youle beate the poſt.

Claudio If it will not be, ile leaue you. *exit*

Benedicke Alas poore hurt foule,now will hee creepe into ſedges: but that my Ladie Beatrice ſhould know me,and not know mee: the princes foole!hah, it may be I goe vnder that title,becauſe I am merry: yea but ſo I am apte to doe my ſelfe wrong: I am not ſo reputed,it is the baſe(though bitter)diſpoſition of Beatrice, that puts the world into her perſon, and ſo giues me out: well,ile be reuenged as I may.

Enter the Prince,Hero,Leonato,Iohn and Borachio, and Conrade.

Pedro Now ſignior,wheres the Counte, did you ſee him?

Benedicke Troth my lord, I haue played the part of Ladie Fame, I found him heere as melancholy as a Lodge in a Warren, I tolde him, and I thinke I tolde him true,that your grace had got the goodwil of this yoong Lady,and I offred him my company to a willow tree,either to make him a garland,as being forſaken,or to binde him vp a rod,as being worthie to bee whipt.

Pedro To be whipt,whats his fault?

Benedicke The flatte tranſgreſſion of a Schoole-boy, who being ouer-ioyed with finding a birds neſt,ſhewes it his companion,and he ſteales it.

Pedro Wilt thou make a truſt a tranſgreſſion?the tranſgreſſion

ſion is in the ſtealer.

Benedicke Yet it had not beene amiſſe the rodde had bee made, & the garland too, for the garland he might haue wo himſelfe,and the rodde he might haue beſtowed on you,w (as I take it) haue ſtolne his birds neſt.

Pedro I wil but teach them to ſing, and reſtore them to t owner.

Benedicke If their ſinging anſwer your ſaying, by my fai you ſay honeſtly.

Pedro The ladie Beatrice hath a quarrell to you,the Ge tleman that daunſt with her, told her ſhee is much wronged you.

Bened. O ſhee miſuſde me paſt the indurance of a block an oake but with one greene leafe on it,would haue anſwer her: my very viſor beganne to aſſume life, and ſcold with he ſhe tolde me,not thinking I had beene my ſelfe,that I was t Princes ieſter, that I was duller than a great thawe, huddlei ieſt vpon ieſt, with ſuch impoſſible conueiance vpon me,th I ſtoode like a man at a marke, with a whole army ſhootin at me: ſhe ſpeakes poynyards,and euery word ſtabbes: if h breath were as terrible as her terminations, there were no li ing neere her,ſhee would infect to the north ſtarre: I woul not marry her, though ſhee were indowed with al that Ada had left him before he tranſgreſt, ſhe would haue made He cules haue turnd ſpit, yea, and haue cleft his club to make t fire too: come,talke not of her, you ſhall find her the infern Ate in good apparell, I would to God ſome ſcholler woul coniure her, for certainely,while ſhe is heere, a man may li as quiet in hell,as in a ſanctuarie, and people ſinne vpon pu poſe,becauſe they would goe thither, ſo indeede all diſqui horrour,and perturbation followes her.

Enter Claudio and Beatrice.

Pedro Looke heere ſhe comes.

Benedicke Will your grace command me any ſeruice to t worldes end? I will go on the ſlighteſt arrand now to the A typodes that you can deuiſe to ſend mee on: I will fetch yo tooth-picker now from the furtheſt inch of Aſia: bring y